

SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES CONCERNING CRASH OF MATS AIRCRAFT

1. As has already been officially released by the Air Force, the aircraft involved in this accident was a MATS C-54 transport plane which departed Burbank early on 17 November for a destination in the Nevada Test Site.

2. Some of the persons on board the aircraft were involved in testing and research activities being conducted in the general area of the Nevada Test Site by the Air Force. The AEC is, of course, aware of the general nature of these activities, but the activities are being carried on by the Air Force and the AEC is not informed about them in detail. The AEC performs a supporting role and has made certain facilities available for these purposes.

3. The 14 persons on the missing aircraft included four MATS crew members, other Air Force personnel, technicians, and consultants, all of them connected with the test and research activities referred to above. No AEC or AEC contractor personnel were on board.